

Religion Discussion

For the religion discussion, each student will take on the persona of an individual from one of the many religions practiced in the world today . We will also incorporate some non-theological ideologies. This will require you to do some research. The best place to begin research is at <http://www.religioustolerance.org>. When you have finished your research you should be able to answer all of the following questions:

- What is the history of the beginning of the belief-way?
- Who was its founder?
- Where was it first practiced and where is it practiced today?
- About how many people practice it today?
- What are its major tenets?
- What is its position on the intersection of religious life and political life?
- What is its position on controversial topics such as abortion and stem cell research?
- What are some of its major rituals?
- What controversies are there in the religion today?
- How is it related to other belief systems?
- What is its relationship to the natural environment?
- What is its view on the physical body?
- How does it approach interpretation of its holy texts or myths (e.g., is it metaphor, etc.?)

You should be ready to discuss these topics in class on the date listed above. You are required to turn in answers to each of these questions after the discussion along with a bibliography (Chicago Style). Your answers do not have to be a formal essay; lists are fine.

THIS WILL NOT BE TURNED IN ON ANGEL BUT IN CLASS.

Course Outcomes

The following highlighted course outcomes are met by this assignment:

A. Illustrate their communication skills by:

- i. Using fundamental cultural anthropology terms and concepts in proper context (2.c, 2.d, 4.b)
- ii. Developing or improving both verbal and written communication skills (2.c, 2.d, 4)
- iii. Clearly expressing thoughts about human culture and adaptive processes (2.c, 2.d, 4.b)
- iv. Successfully completing team work both in- and out-of-class (2.c, 2.d, 3)

B. Demonstrate their critical thinking and problem solving skills by:

- i. Recognizing key elements of human culture (2.a, 2.c)
- ii. Analyzing culture at various levels (individual, community, national) and from an anthropological perspective (1.a, 1.b)
- iii. Explaining anthropological theory and its application to human culture (1.a, 1.b)
- iv. Assessing the interaction between culture, biology and the environment (1.a, 1.b)
- v. Identifying cultural traits and determining their function within their cultural context (1.a, 1.b)

C. Illustrate their level of cultural literacy by:

- i. Demonstrating the ability to be culturally relative (1.a, 1.c, 2.a, 2.b)
- ii. Interrelating personal experience and societal forces within the context of cultural anthropology (1.a, 1.b)
- iii. Demonstrating an understanding of why human cultures vary (1.a, 1.b)
- iv. Demonstrating respect for the diversity of human culture (1)

D. Show their level of information literacy by:

- i. Using and evaluating a variety of internet resources (2, 4.c)
- ii. Assessing anthropological information in general and scholarly resources (1.a, 2.a, 4.b, 4.c)
- iii. Using appropriate citation standards for anthropology (4.b, 4.c)
- iv. Exploring how anthropological knowledge is gained by practicing a few of cultural anthropology's methodologies, e.g., real-world observation (2.a, 2.c, 2.d)